

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MAY 6, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

In today's bulletin I have excerpted sections from the second chapter of the Pope's recent Exhortation, *Exult and Rejoice*. Pope Francis points out two subtle enemies of holiness that reflect early Church extremes that were rejected. The first of these is called Gnosticism. Gnosticism is an over emphasis on the ability of the intellect to address and solve all problems. Some of their solutions presented had no relationship to our human condition and its limitations.

Gnosticism was a doctrine without a mystery. In some ways this is reflected in the beliefs of some scientists that given enough time we can solve every problem and ill of mankind. This has a worldly hope without God. There is no **Utopia** in this world.

Our lives are full of unexpected happenings. Some of these are joyful, some are neutral, and some are very disturbing. The answers we have for these unexpected events tell a tale. Often a negative event makes us turn quickly to the Lord and ask for help. A neutral event like a small change in a lunch menu, hardly ruffles our surface. If we experience a joyous event complete with laughter, we often never think to thank God. It is primarily when we are troubled that we turn to the Lord.

God is part and parcel of our life in every area much as a parent is for their child. The children seldom understand this until they themselves become parents. How do we as adults come to understand that God recognizes us as his children and is constantly influencing all the actions of our life, the joys, the humdrum days, and even the challenges?

God is super, super real. He is not forethought or an afterthought. God is part of us and will never abandon us.

Bishop George Murry, S.J. and the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese

The unexpected diagnosis and illness of Bishop Murry certainly comes in human terms at an inopportune time. The Diocese will begin its 75th Anniversary on Pentecost Sunday, two Sundays from now. The release from the diocese indicates the Bishop will be undergoing chemotherapy at this time. You can be certain that Bishop Murry has talked to the Lord even as the Apostles did when they woke him up asleep in the stern of the boat in a storm. I have written Bishop Murry and assured him of the prayers from our parish. We are offering a Mass for him this coming Tuesday.

First Communion and a Spiritual Milestone

Sixteen children received First Communion last Sunday and their picture is in the bulletin. Jesus comes to them as food for their Spirit. This food has the energy of Jesus. The church asks the children once a week to come to Mass to receive this Communion, this food.

Of course, the children cannot come to Saturday or Sunday Mass unless the parents bring them. If the parents did not feed the children two or three times a day, they would be charged civilly with child neglect. The Lord asks the parents to make that special effort and bring their children to weekly Mass and be fed the presence of Jesus. None of us would like to be charged with child neglect by the Lord. Rather, look upon weekend liturgy as an opportunity to feed the children and at the same time yourself. Your gift to the children is also a gift to yourself.